



December 3, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Preserving the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

My name is Tim Reid and for the past 40 years I have been fortunate to have successful work as an actor, producer and director on TV and in films. I have starred in such TV programs as "WKRP in Cincinnati," "The Richard Pryor Show," "Simon & Simon," "Frank's Place," "Snoops," "Save Our Streets," "Sister, Sister," and "That's 70's Show."

In 1997, I took a giant step and brought together investors to build my own film and television studio. As Founder and President of New Millennium Studios in Petersburg, Virginia, I've attempted to create a diverse and independent platform in the business of independent content creation. I specifically chose the working-class community of Petersburg because of its demographics and opportunities for enrichment.

While I have had a measure of success working both within and without the studio system, I can testify that it hasn't been easy. Like many African American artists, I have been able to overcome many barriers throughout my career despite the historic lack of diversity in front of or behind the camera. Like other small business owners, I saw the Internet as an opportunity to measurably level the playing field.

I am writing to urge you and your fellow commissioners to protect an open Internet by passing strong Network Neutrality rules. The opportunities inherent in fair and open access must be protected, and I urge the Commission to pass strong Network Neutrality rules that would prevent the phone and cable companies from creating a pay-for-play system on the Web.

Like President Obama, I am also a big believer in Network Neutrality. The Internet has grown and prospered because it has been open and available to individuals who, through their creative freedom and passion, have been able to build and create new businesses.

Financial barriers to entry that would result from a tiered system would prevent artists from creating their own businesses online. And those who would be able to launch businesses would have great difficulty competing alongside larger companies that could pay to have their content prioritized.

Creating toll roads on the Internet will result in the very same barriers that too many African American artists have been unable to overcome in radio, TV and Cable, and in the process will destroy the opportunities for the next generation of creators.

Sincerely,



Tim Reid

cc: FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn • FCC Commissioner Michael Copps